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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th January 1896.

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Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	Bengali	**Calcutta.**			
	Tri-monthly.				
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta ...	About 677		
	Weekly.				
1	"Banganivasi"	Ditto ...	„ 5,000	10th January 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi"	Ditto ...	„ 20,000	11th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi"	Ditto ...	.....	14th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi"	Ditto ...	About 4,000	10th ditto.	
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto ...	.....	9th ditto.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	11th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar"	Ditto ...	About 500	8th ditto.	
8	"Samay"	Ditto ...	„ 4,000	10th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	„ 3,000	11th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	„ 800		
	Daily.				
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto ...	„ 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto ...	„ 200	9th, 12th, 14th and 15th January 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	„ 500		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	„ 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	„ 1,000	9th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 15th January 1896.	
	Hindi.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	„ 800	9th January 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	„ 9,000		
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
	Daily.				
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	.....	7th, 8th, 10th to 12th and 14th January 1896.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	PERSIAN.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	8th January 1896.	
	URDU.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto ...	About 400	2nd & 9th January 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	„ 300	30th December 1895 and 8th January 1896.	
	BENGALI.	BURDWAN DIVISION.			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	„ 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	„ 298		
	Weekly.				
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	350 to 400	14th January 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	500	12th ditto.	
3	"Darsak"	Ditto ...	.....	12th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	754	10th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
	Monthly.				
1	"Ghosak"	Khulna ...	350		
	Weekly.				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	8th January 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	200	10th ditto.	
3	"Pratikar"	Ditto ...	603	10th ditto.	
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	Monthly.				
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
	Weekly.				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	5th, 12th and 19th December 1895.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	4th, 11th and 18th December 1895.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412	7th, 14th and 21st December 1895.	
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	Monthly.				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	Weekly.				
1	"Aryavarta"	Dinapur ...	1,000	11th January 1896.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	Urdu.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch"	Gaya ...	400	6th January 1896.	
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
	Bengali.	**Rajshahi Division.**			
	Weekly.				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	8th January 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300	2nd ditto.	
	Hindi.				
	Monthly.				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	January 1896.	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	Bengali.	**Dacca Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
	Weekly.				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	14th January 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	460	12th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	250	11th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur"	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	9th ditto.	
	English and Bengali.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	13th January 1896.	
	Bengali.	**Chittagong Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Tripura Prakash ..	Comilla ...	.....		
	Weekly.				
1	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	120		
	Bengali.	**Assam.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		

I.—Foreign Politics.

The *Hublul Mateen* of the 8th January has the following:— HUBLUL MATEEN, Jan. 8th, 1896.

A Turko-English war and the Indian Musalmans.

It is Mr. Gladstone's speech against the Sultan which has made the Armenians bold enough to rise in a mass against their sovereign. His hostile attitude towards Islam and the Porte created such a feeling of mutual animosity between Muhammadans and Christians all over the world, that a universal religious war between the followers of these two religions was not at all beyond the range of possibility. Such an issue would have extremely delighted Mr. Gladstone, who is called a lover of mankind, and Lord Salisbury, whose Government pretends to be a protector of the Musalman world.

The Musalmans, though divided by civil dissensions, love their religion more than they love their lives. They can sacrifice anything to save the prestige of Islam.

The Musalmans of India are as much justified in defending the Government of the Sultan with a view to protect their religion, as Mr. Gladstone was in organizing an opposition in England against the Sultan with a view to protect his Christian subjects. In fact, a feeling of uneasiness exists in the mind of the Indian Musalmans owing to the attitude taken up by England towards the Sultan of Turkey.

Seeing that the triumph of the Cross over the Crescent is impracticable so long as the Turk is predominant in Turkey, Lord Salisbury is secretly trying to bring about the overthrow of the Turkish Empire, while consoling the Indian Musalmans by saying that the sovereign of England is their Khalif. It should be borne in mind that the expected Turko-English war will create the same confusion all over the Moslem world, which the last Russo-Turkish war created in India. It is true that the whole Moslem world is not under the direct government of the Sultan, but when Turkey is invaded by any infidel power, every Musalman will obey the Sultan's command.

2. Referring to the Lushai expedition, the *Hitavadi* of the 10th January says that the English Government will find no satisfaction in its heart, so long as it has not deprived even the savage tribes of India of arms and independence, and it must therefore spend Indian money every year upon the reduction of those tribes, no matter whether the Indians live or die of starvation. HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The Lushai expedition.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

3. The *Vikrampur* of the 9th January complains of the prevalence of theft in the Vikrampur pargana of the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district. Even places like Bajrajogini, only a short distance from the Sadar of the subdivision, are not free from thieves: one or more cases of theft are heard of every morning even at those places. Incendiarism, too, has become very rife along with the prevalence of theft. VIKRAMPUR, Jan. 9th, 1896.

Prevalence of theft in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district.

4. The same paper says that no better illustration of the inefficiency of the police and of the recrudescence of crime in the country can be given than is afforded by the fact that the other day when Mr. Faulder, District Magistrate of Dacca, in the course of his cold weather tour, anchored his boat off the Baktabali *chur* in the Munshiganj subdivision, some articles were stolen from his boat by thieves. And it is said that the police, according to its wont, is harassing the innocent people of the neighbourhood. At one time crime was very prevalent in the Backergunge district, and matters did not improve till on one occasion the boat of Mr. C. B. Clarke, late Inspector of Schools, was robbed of everything it contained. And will not Mr. Faulder, now that he has felt the hand of the thief upon his own property, take remedial measures in his district? So long as natives alone were robbed no one cared about the matter, but now it is hoped the authorities will bestir themselves in checking crime. VIKRAMPUR

Theft in a District Magistrates' boat.

SAMAY, Jan. 10th, 1896.

5. The *Samay* of the 10th January has the following:—

Prostitution of minor girls.

Here is an instance to show how the prostitution of minor girls is carried on in this country, and how the procedure adopted by the courts of justice in trying offences against marriage, arms immoral and unscrupulous men with an instrument to ruin innocent girls for ever. A Musalman of Tollygunge has made an affidavit in the Howrah Police Court to the following effect:—About four months ago, a young Hindu girl came to him and sought his protection. She said that when very young, she had been enticed away from her home by a pimp, and made to lead the life of a prostitute since then. She was very ill-treated and had managed to escape from her bondage. The petitioner was moved by her lamentation, and married her in the *nika* form. They had been living as man and wife, when a few days ago the man under whose control the woman was before, set up a person who pretended to be her husband, and lodged a complaint at the Howrah Police Court to the effect that the petitioner had enticed away his lawful wife, and had been living in adultery with her. The court issued a warrant against the woman summoning her as a witness. The woman was arrested, and her pretended husband and the ruffian who had kept her under his control, stood bail for her. The woman was thus again made to live a life of infamy against her will. Her pretended husband, of course, did not put in his appearance again at court, and his case was dismissed. But the woman is still subject to the authority of the ruffian who enticed her from home, and is making her lead the life of a prostitute. To release the poor woman from the ruffian's clutches the petitioner will have to undergo the trouble and expense of carrying on a lawsuit, which he, being a poor man, may not be able to do. And even if he persists in carrying on his case, the woman, under the influence of the ruffian, under whose control she at present lives, may ignore the petitioner as her lawful husband.

The above case discloses a scandalous state of things. It shows, in the first place, that prostitution of minor girls is being carried on in this country on a very large scale and, in the second place, that the procedure followed in our law courts in trying offences against marriage, sets, as it were, a premium on this immoral traffic. In fact, the number of minor prostitutes is fast increasing in the country, notwithstanding the law which makes it an offence for a man to cohabit with a girl under sixteen, even with her consent if he is not her lawful husband. It is also an offence to aid or abet in the commission of the crime. It is quite clear that the law is being broken with impunity. Those who carry on the immoral traffic are either not aware of the existence of the law, or wilfully set it at nought. And the police, which is entrusted with the task of enforcing the law and of bringing those who violate it to justice, is totally unmindful of its duty. Compared with the horrors of the life of infamy which these minor prostitutes are made to lead, the solitary instances of cruelty towards the Indian coolies in the tea-gardens or of the oppression of poor raiyats by the zamindars, sink into insignificance. The British Government has put down the slave trade, and cannot the Government in this country, with the help of a strong police, put down this infamous traffic, which is being carried on not in secret, but before the very eye of the public? The evil complained of is not due to any defect in the law, but to its improper execution—to the ignorance or negligence of the police. And it is not very difficult to bring the police to its senses and make it mind its duty better.

BANGAVASI, Jan. 11th, 1896.

6. The *Bangavasi* of the 11th January says that sixteen panchayats, in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district, have been fined one rupee each for failing to pay the chaukidars' salaries in time. The panchayat's is a thankless duty. His services are not paid for, but he is ill-treated in this way by the district authorities. It is said that the object of the Government is to prevent respectable persons from serving as panchayats. Let the Government judge if there is any ground for the people entertaining this suspicion.

The Bengal panchayat.

CHARU MIHIR, Jan. 14th, 1896.

7. The District Magistrate of Mymensingh, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 14th January, has framed certain rules, the operation of which will lead to an enhancement of the village chaukidars' prestige. The Magistrate is not also slow in impressing upon the panchayats the duty of being regular and punctual

The chaukidars in the Mymensingh district.

in paying the chaukidars' salaries. But does the Magistrate care to inform himself of the manner in which the chaukidars now-a-days perform their duties? Though the people are literally smarting under the chaukidari tax, they fail to understand for what purpose the chaukidars are entertained, unless it be that of levying that tax. The fact that theft has become rife in the district shows the manner in which the chaukidars are performing their duty of watch and ward, though in committing oppressions upon the people the chaukidars and panchayats are both fast emulating the police.

CHARU MIHIR, Jan. 14th, 1896.

Local investigation in criminal cases in the Mymensingh district.

8. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Netrakona, protests against the practice, which has been recently introduced in the Mymensingh district, of entrusting the investigation in criminal cases to village panchayats. The panchayats being as a rule illiterate persons and prone to magnify crimes, the practice has been productive of great hardship to the poor. The duty of local investigation should be entrusted to more respectable people, such as Government pensioners and educated persons of independent means residing in a locality.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BANGANIVASI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The Small Cause Courts.

9. The way in which justice is administered in the Small Cause Courts, observes the *Banganivasi* of the 10th January, has shaken the confidence of the public in these courts of justice. The very name of a Small Cause Court gives rise to a revulsion of feeling in one's mind. It is associated with a place where justice is ruthlessly sacrificed.

This unhappy state of things is due principally to a defect inherent in the very constitution of the Small Cause Courts. The evil lies deep at the root and spreads through the branches. The very name "Small Cause Court" implies that the Government makes an invidious distinction between what it calls "small causes" and "great causes"—between petty cases and big cases, that is to say, it is perhaps of opinion that a Judge need not pay so much attention to the trial of a petty civil case as to that of a big one. From the point of view of law, however, all cases are placed on the same footing. To a poor man five rupees are as much valuable as a lakh of rupees are to a rich man.

To this invidious distinction between a petty case and a big case is due the objectionable procedure which is adopted in the Small Cause Courts in the trial of suits. Justice is necessarily administered in hot haste in these courts, as the Judges have each to dispose of a host of cases every day. It is true that the cases which are tried by these courts are not generally of a very intricate nature, but it is still impossible for a man to understand a case thoroughly before he disposes of it, when he has to clear his file—and a big file too—in hot haste. It is also impossible that he should be able to maintain his equanimity in the haste and worry of disposing of a large number of suits, a task which necessitates the examination of a host of witnesses.

The time has come when the Small Cause Courts should be placed on a reformed basis, and this reform should be thorough and root-and-branch. A patchwork here and a patchwork there will not do. The very constitution of the Small Cause Courts should be changed, and with it the principles on which that constitution is based.

HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed, Officiating District Judge of Nadia.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th January writes as follows:—

The name of Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed has become familiar to many since he sought the protection of the Insolvency Court. High officers under Government are prohibited from incurring debts on any account whatever. We have already shown how Mr. Ahsanuddin and his brothers have violated this rule, but we reserve further comments till his case has been finally disposed of. If justice is not done in this matter in this country, an agitation should be carried on in England to remedy this injustice, for if one officer can retain his post in the public service after a declaration of insolvency, it is not easy to see how any other officer can be dismissed from it on that ground.

Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed has acted as the District Judge of Nadia for nearly ten months. He has not only incurred debt in violation of the rules of Government, but has also made himself unpopular by many acts of his.

It was at an evil moment that Government passed Act XII of 1887, by which the power of appointing *amla* in the subordinate courts was transferred to the District Judge. Government will know how the District Judges are making use of their power under section 30 of that Act, if it asks the opinion of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges on that point. Many good District Judges now feel that it would have been better if the Munsifs and Subordinate Judges had been left in possession of the power of appointing *amla* in their own courts. Government can know nothing of the operation of that section because the acts of the District Judges under that section have been made final by that Act. There is thus no check upon arbitrary action. The following instances will show how the Officiating District Judge of Nadia has made use of his powers under section 30 of the Act.

(1) In August last the post of the execution muharrir fell vacant in the court of the Subordinate Judge, and the vacancy was advertised. Three or four execution muharris of Munsifs' Courts applied for the post; but before the expiry of the period that had been fixed for receiving applications, the Officiating District Judge appointed to the post a man of his, who had no knowledge whatever of the business of a Civil Court and did not even know what the execution of a decree means. How he did his work can therefore be very well imagined. As he was, however, the District Judge's man, the sarishtadar helped him in his work. During the puja vacation the new muharrir, whose name is Jogendranath Pramanik, went home. The Court reopened on the 21st October, but the Judge's man did not enter his appearance. A telegram was received from his father, stating that his son was detained by some domestic difficulty, and would soon send an application for leave. Four or five days later an application was received asking for a week's casual leave. Finding that no casual leave could be granted under the circumstances, the Subordinate Judge made a reference to the District Judge, who decided the point in the muharrir's favour. The Subordinate Judge then forwarded the application for leave to the District Judge, with the remark that he could not grant casual leave under the circumstances, and that if the District Judge wished to grant such leave he must grant it himself. The Judge accordingly granted the muharrir casual leave. The man afterwards came to Krishnagar and tendered a resignation. The Subordinate Judge accepted the resignation, and informed the District Judge of it. Thereupon the latter wrote angrily to the Subordinate Judge that he should not have accepted the resignation, and that he must have forced the man to tender it. The acceptance of the resignation was set aside, and the man was appointed deputy nazir. After seven days the nazir reported that the man knew nothing of the work of his department. The man was then appointed assistant comparing clerk. The above account reads more like a romance than a real occurrence. We had no idea that a District Judge could act in this way. We request Government to call for the papers relating to the appointment of Jogendranath Pramanik.

(2) Haran Chandra De is a resident of the Noakhali district. His father is a peon of the Begumganj Munsifi. When the new Judge was in Noakhali, Haran won his favour somehow. Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed appointed him writer peon. After he had come away from Noakhali, Haran was accused of having taken bribe, and was dismissed. The dismissed Haran sought the protection of Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed, and called him father. As soon as Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed came to Nadia, he appointed Haran as a Bengali copyist in his Court. Haran put up in a disreputable quarter of Krishnagar. Soon after this Haran was appointed an English copyist in the court of the first Munsif of Kushtia, but did not give up bad company. Haran began to make his presence felt. Nobody dared to complain against him, as he was the District Judge's man. Soon after this he was appointed permanent muharrir in the court of the first Munsif of Kushtia in supersession of the claims of many assistant clerks and copyists. An arbitrary act like this has not been heard of for a long time.

(3) Babu Maheshchandra Chaudhuri, a clerk in the District Judge's Court, who served with credit for nine years, was suddenly transferred, in June last, without any offence, to the Court of the first Munsif of Kushtia. His post was advertised. Many applications were received, but an outsider, who is said to be a relative of the Judge, was appointed. If Government calls for

a specimen of this man's handwriting, it will see how just his appointment has been. Mahesh Babu was probably transferred to make room for this man. Will not Government attend to such an injustice?

(4) In October last the Judge appointed, without advertising the vacancy, a man of his who is an outsider as a muharrir in the Chuadanga Munsifi. What is the good of keeping apprentices and thereby paving the way for corruption if they are not to be appointed to vacancies when they occur?

(5) The Judge has also appointed a man of his, an outsider, to act as assistant comparing clerk in his court for six months.

(6) In April last the post of the head clerk of the Judge's Court fell vacant. The post, which carries a salary of Rs. 70 to Rs. 100, was nominally advertised. Many competent men applied for it. One of these was the sarishtadar of the Subordinate Judge of Nadia, a well-educated man, who formerly served as head clerk to the Judge of Rangpur, and is in the grade of Rs. 50 to Rs. 70. But to the astonishment of all, in supersession of the claims of these men, the peshkar of the District Court of Hooghly, a man who has passed only the Entrance Examination and who was in the grade of Rs. 30 to Rs. 50, was appointed. Fine justice this!

(7) The new head clerk has, after six months' service, taken a year's leave, and is not likely to return. The sarishtadar of the Subordinate Judge has been appointed to officiate for him. A very different arrangement would probably have been made if the vacancy had been a permanent one. The head muharrir of the Judge who is in the grade of Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 has been appointed as sarishtadar of the Subordinate Judge over the heads of the two sarishtadars of the sadar munsifis, both of whom are able men and are in the grade of Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, and one of whom once officiated as the Subordinate Judge's sarishtadar, and the other is a graduate of the Calcutta University. Strange to say their names were not even included in the list that was prepared of officers deserving promotion. Will Government call for the papers relating to this matter?

(8) The Government circular No. 2506, dated the 29th May 1893, has been systematically disregarded. The men are almost all outsiders. Only one or two lucky apprentices have obtained permanent appointments. Will not Government look to the interests of the poor apprentices?

It is said that the Judge twice became insane,—a thing which no one will be inclined to disbelieve after what has been stated above. We have heard of many other serious charges against this officer. Government should have an enquiry instituted into the unjust proceedings of Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmed by a permanent Judge, and get the wrong done by him righted.

We can not believe that an officer who is so unjust and arbitrary in the matter of the appointment of *amla* can be a good Judge. Lately a decree for the attachment of his salary came to Krishnagar for execution. A Judge who is involved in debt can never command the respect of the public. Mr. Ahsanuddin should be transferred to some other department.

Mr. Forbes' whipping circular.

11. The same paper says that Mr. Forbes, the Commissioner of the Patna Division, has lately issued a circular blaming Deputy Magistrates for their weak aversion to whipping and reminding them that, in the case of juvenile offenders, whipping is preferable to imprisonment. The writer is astonished to read Mr. Forbes' circular. He had expected that the barbarous practice of whipping would disappear with the advance of civilisation, but he now finds an educated and enlightened English Commissioner advocating that practice. He will not be surprised if he next hears some other English Commissioner advocating the reintroduction of the cruel punishments of mutilation and impaling on the strength of former precedents. By issuing this circular Mr. Forbes has interfered with the judicial independence of his subordinates, and has afforded encouragement to barbarity. It is to be hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will have this circular withdrawn. It will be a matter of great regret if barbarity increases under his administration.

HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

Mr. Abdur Rahman in the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

12. The same paper has learnt from a trustworthy source that in the Annual Administration Report of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, Mr. Abdur Rahman has been given credit for having done an enormous amount of work. He has, indeed, disposed of more cases than any other Judge, only 40 of

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the cases filed in his court remaining undecided on the 31st December last. But as this may lead one to form an erroneous estimate of Mr. Abdur Rahman's merits as a Judge, it is necessary to state here that the proportion of cases decided by him, which has been retried, is quite unexampled in the annals of that court. Not only this, the retrials have almost all resulted in the setting aside of Mr. Abdur Rahman's decisions. In 23 of the 25 retrials up to the 31st December his order was set aside, and the remaining two cases, it is said, were lost only through the fault of the pleaders engaged in them. If Mr. Abdur Rahaman, therefore, is to be kept in the Small Cause Court, another Judge will have to be kept to set aside every decision which he may pass.

HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The rumoured appointment of Mr. Starling to the Calcutta High Court Bench.

13. The same paper cannot believe the rumour that Government will bring over Mr. Starling from Bombay to fill a vacancy on the Bench of the Calcutta High Court, when there is no want of able Barristers and Judges in that Court. When Sir Comer Petheram was brought over from Allahabad and made the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, great dissatisfaction was expressed from all quarters. Indeed, the puisne Judges should have before them the prospect of becoming the Chief Justice, and able pleaders and Barristers of becoming Judges. The writer will be glad to see either Babu Rashbehari Ghosh or Mr. Lalmohun Ghosh appointed a Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

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Mr. Fisher.

14. The same paper says that since it published an account of how Mr. Fisher had a toddy-stealer punished with twenty stripes, although he had previously sentenced him only to ten, that officer has been placed in charge of the Pabna district. Will Government's prestage remain intcat after its omission to punish publicly that savage officer? Is simple transfer enough to meet the ends of justice?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR, Jan. 11th, 1896.

Musalman Honorary Magistrates for Santipur in the Nadia district.

15. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th January says that there being three thousand Musalman residents in Santipur, in the Nadia district in a total population of thirty-three thousand, there ought to be at least four Musalmans among the thirteen Honorary Magistrates of the local bench. There are two vacancies on the Honorary Bench just now, and it is hoped that the authorities will appoint to it two Musalman gentlemen. Munshi Muhammad Bechu, a Municipal Commissioner, ought to get one of the appointments.

SANJIVANI, Jan. 11th, 1896.

Mr. Forbes on the imprisonment of juvenile offenders.

16. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th January agrees with Mr. Forbes, Commissioner of the Patna Division, in the opinion that juvenile offenders should not be sent to jail, but it strongly criticises Mr. Forbes' opinion that they should be punished with whipping instead of imprisonment. Whipping is an extremely humiliating punishment. There can, moreover, practically be no appeal against a sentence of whipping when it is once executed. This is the reason why the Deputy Magistrates generally forbear passing a sentence of whipping on an offender. Mr. Forbes, however, is of opinion that such conduct is due to "morbid" sympathy; and he enjoins them to punish juvenile offenders with whipping in all cases where they are permitted to do so. In a case where a Deputy Magistrate has not the power to pass the sentence of whipping, he should refer the case to the Magistrate. This is gross interference with the judicial independence of the Deputy Magistrates and making them helpless tools in the hands of the Magistrates. Sir Charles Elliott has set a very bad example to the executive authorities in this country, and his policy of interference in judicial work is now bearing evil consequences. It is to be expected that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will put a curb on this tendency on the part of the executive authorities of interfering with the judicial independence of the subordinate Magistrates.

The best way to punish a juvenile offender is to send him to the reformatory; and it is to be hoped that Mr. Forbes will enjoin the Deputy Magistrates to send juvenile offenders to the reformatory instead of sending them to jail or punishing them with whipping.

SULABH DAINIK, Jan. 11th, 1896.

Mr. Forbes' criminal circular.

17. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th January cannot approve of Mr. Forbes' instruction to the Magistrates of his Division that they should pass upon juvenile offenders the sentence of whipping more largely than that of imprisonment. Whipping is not

only a barbarous form of punishment, but it is one which is not reversible on appeal after its infliction.

Mr. Forbes attributes the readiness of the native Magistracy to inflict the punishment of imprisonment instead of whipping upon petty offenders to a morbid sympathy, and condemns that feeling. The writer cannot agree with the Commissioner, for the reasons stated above. If imprisonment is to be substituted by any other form of punishment, it should be replaced not by whipping but by detention in the reformatory or by fine.

Mr. Forbes has rightly censured the Deputy Magistrates for sending people to jail for petty offences. But if he had taken the trouble to look beneath the surface, he would have found that the Deputy Magistrates do so not of their own motion but under pressure from the authorities. Under Sir Charles Elliott there was no promotion for a Deputy Magistrate unless he could shew a large percentage of convictions. As a necessary consequence the percentage of convictions rose to its climax under his rule. It is indeed inadvisable, as Mr. Forbes points out, to increase the jail population by sending petty offenders there.

18. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 12th January observes that the circular recently issued by the Calcutta High Court, calling on the District Judges to submit quarterly returns showing the progress of work in the courts of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges in their respective districts, is bearing undesirable consequences. As the Judges of the High Court depend upon these returns alone for estimating the merits of a Munsif or a Subordinate Judge they are most likely to give greater credit to one who can show the largest number of cases disposed of than to another who may not have the good fortune of trying cases in post haste. The consequence is that Munsifs and Subordinate Judges naturally vie with one another in clearing their files in hot haste, and justice suffers while the criterion of the ability of a Munsif or a Subordinate Judge is the *percentage* of cases he disposes of and not the quality of the justice he administers. The greater is the number of cases disposed of the larger no doubt is the revenue derived from the sale of court-fee stamps. But justice is not a marketable commodity; and the Government should therefore take every step to see that the people get it in the civil courts. It is therefore highly necessary that the High Court should withdraw the circular under notice and adopt a more rational method of judging the merits of the subordinate judiciary.

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA, Jan. 12th, 1896.

The High Court circular concerning the working of the Subordinate Civil Courts.

19. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th January cannot understand under what authority the courts in the Dacca town were completely closed on the 9th January last, and partially closed on two other dates on account of the local horse races. If the holidays were observed with Government's permission, they should have been previously notified in the official gazette in order to save mufassal people who had business in the courts the trouble and expense of remaining for nothing in town for two or three days. In many cases the observance of the holidays also inflicted serious loss on parties and witnesses to suits who left their places of business in order to be present in court.

That the townspeople do not complain of the inconvenience caused by the observance of the holidays is because few of them suffer any great loss on that account Nay, many of them may not even like this protest by the writer.

As for the races themselves, the writer would have no objection to their being held, as they give employment for some days at least to the coolies of the town, if Government officers had not wasted their valuable time upon them.

DACCA PRAKASH, Jan. 12th, 1896.

The Dacca races and the local courts.

20. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 14th January has heard a rumour that the amla of the Sub-Registry Office at Bajitpur, in the Mymensingh district, levy from the parties an illegal fee, called amla-fee, calculated on the value of the stamp affixed to every document.

CHARU MIHIR, Jan. 14th, 1896.

An illegal fee levied by the amla of a Sub-Registry Office.

21. Another correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

Babu Bhupendra Nath Rai, at present Subdivisional Officer of Kishorganj, in the Mymensingh district, was Subdivisional Officer of Netrakona in the same district in December last. On the 18th

CHARU MIHIR.

The Subdivisional Officer of Kishorganj in the Mymensingh district.

December last, when he was hearing the case of Mathuranath Bhattacharyya *versus* Abudi Shekh, his chaprasi, Labnarayan De (who puts up at the Deputy Magistrate's lodgings), held the complainant by the neck in the verandah in front of the court-room, and was trying to extort some money from him. Babu Kailas Chandra Biswas, the complainant's mukhtar, and others interfered and remonstrated with the chaprasi for his conduct. But this enraged Babu Bhupendranath, who had an old grudge against the complainant's mukhtar, whom he had long suspected of having contributed articles against him to the newspapers, and after calling him names, he ordered him to leave the court. Some three or four hours after this occurrence, he sent for Kailas Babu, drew up a proceeding against him, served him with a notice to show cause why the charge should not be proceeded with, and took down his deposition on oath. He has also given a notice to Kailas Babu informing him that he will move the High Court to remove his name from the roll of mukhtars. Not content with this, the Deputy Babu fined Babu Mathuranath, in whose case Kailas Babu had appeared as mukhtar, Rs. 25 under section 560 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, though the case against Abudi Shekh had been completely proved.

On the 14th December last the complainant in the case Kalim Sekh *versus* Sekh Bahadur submitted through his mukhtar a properly stamped petition, requesting permission to compound his case, which was under section 323 of the Penal Code, and was therefore compoundable. Babu Bhupendranath, however, rejected the petition, and ordered his chaprasi to keep the accused in his custody. Shortly after, the parties having paid Re. 1-8-0 as *salami* to the Deputy Babu's Bench Clerk and chaprasi, the Bench Clerk again submitted the petition, and had the required permission granted. Babu Kailas Chandra, the mukhtar referred to above, appeared for the accused in this case, and he informed the District Magistrate of the Deputy Magistrate's conduct in refusing his permission to the composition. The Deputy Magistrate also suspects that it is Kailas Babu who has submitted an anonymous petition to the District Magistrate representing to him the oppressions which the Deputy Babu commits upon the stamp-vendors. All these circumstances account for the proceeding which Bhupendra Babu drew up against Kailas Babu on the 18th December last.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA, Jan. 14th, 1896.

Mr. Forbes' whipping circular.

22. Mr. Forbes, Commissioner of the Patna Division, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th January, is very angry with the Deputy Magistrates for their sending juvenile offenders to jail, instead of punishing them with whipping. The jails, he urges, will be soon overcrowded if juvenile offenders are in this way lodged in them. Jail expenditure will also be thereby increased. There is, however, serious objection to whipping as a form of punishment. This form of punishment, when once inflicted, is irrevocable. In many cases, it has been observed, in which whipping was inflicted on the accused, the sentence of the lower court has been set aside on appeal. But the sentence was already executed and could not be revoked. Only the other day the Subdivisional Officer of Sitamarhi sentenced a boy of fourteen to whipping, and had the sentence at once executed. On appeal, the sentence of the Joint-Magistrate was set aside by the High Court, but it could no longer be revoked. This is the reason why all conscientious men are opposed to whipping as a form of punishment. This form of punishment has been abolished from the British army. The Howard Association is strongly against it, and public opinion is growing in favour of abolishing it from the statute book. It is strange that precisely at this juncture Mr. Forbes should champion the cause of whipping. He only shows how strangely the humane feelings of a civilian in this country get blunted. Whipping is admittedly a cruel and heartless form of punishment, and sometimes prisoners even die from its effects. A case of this nature happened some time ago in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, where a prisoner died from the effects of whipping. If juvenile offenders are to be whipped, instead of being imprisoned, so that they may not overcrowd the jails and increase jail expenditure, why not indiscriminately hang all offenders? That will most effectually prevent overcrowding in jails, and reduce jail expenditure. It is not known whether Mr. Forbes came to this country with a heart. This is sure that his heart has now become deadened to all humane feelings. If he is so anxious to reduce jail expenditure, why does he not recommend the infliction of fine as a form of punishment in all cases? No punishment touches a man so keenly as that which reaches him through his purse. Fine is likely

to prove a very effectual form of punishment, while it will reduce jail expenditure and bring something to the public exchequer into the bargain.

Sulabh Dainik, Jan. 15th, 1896.

Administration of criminal justice and European criminals.

23. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 15th January says that Lord Ripon's object in introducing the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill, known as the Ilbert Bill, was to check the miscarriage of justice, which invariably takes place in cases in which Europeans charged with a crime are tried by European Magistrates. The Bill, however, as everybody knows, could not be passed, but the discussion which it raised created a wide breach between the Indian and the Anglo-Indian community.

Nobody has ever heard of a European charged with murder being severely punished. And the result of this indulgent treatment of European criminals has been that murders of natives by European have become very frequent. The accused in all such cases are, as a matter of course, acquitted by European jurors and European judges, thereby giving the natives to understand that a European deserves no punishment for murdering a native. Instances of such acquittal became very common in the time of Sir Charles Elliott, under whom official despotism rose to its climax, and the officials were most carefully screened from the consequences of their arbitrary conduct. While European Judges and Magistrates were not censured by Sir Charles for letting off European criminals, the native Magistracy were repeatedly urged to "punish somebody for the day's work." Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and it is hoped that he will adopt a more impartial policy, and ensure an upright administration of justice. Under him, up to the present time, there have been only two cases in which the public has been unable to approve of the action of the officers concerned. The first is the illegal whipping sentence passed by Mr. Fisher of Alipore; and the other is the issue of Mr. Forbes' criminal circular instructing the Magistracy under him to inflict whipping instead of imprisonment more largely in petty cases. Mr. Fisher has been punished with transfer, but it has not been right to place him in charge of a district. As for Mr. Forbes' circular, the writer approves of so much of it as expresses disapproval of the sentence of imprisonment in petty cases. Mr. Forbes would have whipping inflicted in such cases, but the writer would like to have the accused in such cases sent to the reformatory.

At all events, Sir Alexander Mackenzie should avoid following the policy of his predecessor in the administration of criminal justice. Let impartial justice be administered in the law courts, and the people of India are prepared to suffer every other grievance in silence. It is hoped that in Bengal Sir Alexander will be true to his former traditions.

Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika, Jan. 15th, 1896.

Acquittal of European offenders.

24. Referring to the Coroner's verdict in the case in which a native *khalasi*, Ashgar Ali by name, died from the effects of injuries inflicted on him by the European officer of a sea-going vessel, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th January observes that the Coroner's jury acquitted the European offender of guilt, by declaring, on the strength of the Police Surgeon's evidence, that the death of the poor *khalasi* was due to blood-poisoning. May one ask if there would have been blood-poisoning had the deceased not been so severely beaten by the European? Excuse is not wanting whenever an English jury is resolved to acquit a European offender. In Dacca, some time ago, a native died of Erysipelas brought on by the severe beating inflicted on him by a European. The European offender was, however, let off. In Hyderabad, not many years ago, a European caused the death of a native by kicking at his abdomen. It was ascertained by the *post-mortem* examination of the body of the deceased person that there was a fish bone in his stomach, which had stuck into his abdomen on the kicking being inflicted on it, and thus hastened his death. The European offender was accordingly let off. The Coroner of Calcutta is not to blame. He has precedents on his side.

(*d*)—*Education.*

Murshidabad Hitaishi, Jan. 8th, 1896.

Sir Alfred Croft's re-appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University.

25. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 8th January has the following:—

May we ask why Sir Alfred Croft is becoming so unpopular in Bengal? When Sir George Campbell wanted to curtail the educational expenditure in these provinces, Mr. Atkinson, the then

Director of Public Instruction, strenuously opposed the Lieutenant-Governor, though he knew that by such opposition he was risking his own appointment. This happened only a few years ago. And who does not know Mr. Atkinson's successor, Mr. Woodrow, who had a sincere attachment to the Education Department, and laboured incessantly for its improvement? Mr Woodrow cared little for politics. But his successor, Sir Alfred Croft, is known as a "political educationist." His re-appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University has displeased the Bengalis, because he hates them. The writer would have been glad if the office had this time been conferred upon some Indian gentleman. It is useless to hope for improvement in University education during the Vice-Chancellorship of a man who is laying the axe at the root of high education by starving the Education Department.

VIKRAMPUR, Jan. 9th, 1896.

Mismanagement in some private schools in Dacca.

26. The *Vikrampur* of the 9th January says that great mismanagement prevails in some of the private schools in Dacca on account of change of head masters. The sole object of the proprietors of private schools being to make money, they neither employ an adequately paid teaching staff, nor venture to be strict upon the boys in enforcing discipline. Not only, therefore, is the quality of the education which is imparted in these schools very indifferent, but the boys brought up in them do not consider themselves amenable to the least discipline. In many cases the school authorities themselves, under the garb of imparting moral education, familiarise the boys with such ideas of duty and morality, that the latter do not hesitate even to hate their parents. Those parents are greatly mistaken who, tempted by the offer of cheap education made by these schools or from any other motive, send their boys to receive instruction there. Unfortunately, private schools in the mufassal are everywhere adopting the policy of employing teachers on small salaries.

DARUSSALTANAT AND URDU GUIDE, Jan. 9th, 1896.

Hindu feeling against Musalmans in the Calcutta University.

27. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 9th January says that the following will show the feeling of the educated Hindus against the Muhammadans. Mr. Abdul Majid, B. A., a Barrister practising in the Calcutta High Court, applied to the University to be appointed an examiner. He annexed his certificates to his application, but strange to say his certificates were not placed before the members of the syndicate, and his application was therefore about to be rejected when Sir Alfred Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, supported Mr. Abdul Majid, and certified to his ability. It was on the testimony of Sir Alfred that Mr. Abdul Majid was appointed an examiner in Geography in the Entrance Examination.

HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The Central Text-Book Committee.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th January says that the ways of the Central Text Book Committee are really inscrutable. Hitherto the rule was to publish one list of approved text-books in a year. But this time, it is said, the President of the Committee has decided, at the request of some, to publish an additional list. This publication of an additional list during the year with a view to befriend particular persons would be quite an arbitrary proceeding. It would be a much better arrangement to publish in the *Calcutta Gazette* after each meeting of the Committee a list of such books as may have been approved by it at that meeting.

BANGANIVASI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The appointment of examiners for the last B. L. Examination.

29. In order to secure uniformity in the standard of examination, says the *Banganivasi* of the 10th January, the syndicate of the Calcutta University invariably reappoints as examiners those who have once served the University as such unless they are proved incompetent for the task. This golden principle was, however, violated by the President of the Faculty of Law in appointing examiners for the last B. L. Examination. Old examiners were set aside and new men were appointed as examiners. Mr. Justice Hill was not well advised in thus departing from what has almost become a settled principle with the Calcutta University. To guard against the commission of such a mistake in future it is necessary that the power of selecting examiners for law, medicine and engineering should be invested in the syndicate, as in the case of the Arts Examinations. It is not advisable that this power should rest, as at present, with the Presidents of the faculties of law, medicine and engineering. It is also a matter of regret that in appointing examiners favour is shown to Musalmans. This is certainly very bad.

30. The *Pratikar* of the 10th January says that the miserable results scored by the candidates in the Murshidabad district in the last middle vernacular examination indicate that middle education is on the decline, in that district. The results have been most deplorable for schools which took high places in the examinations of previous years. The deterioration of the middle schools in the town can be explained by the fact that townspeople now-a-days send their promising boys to the English schools from the beginning. But the deterioration of the mufassal middle schools, which are the only institutions where the children of the middle class gentry in the mufassal can be educated, argues a decline in the education of the country in general.

PRATIKAR, Jan. 10th, 1896.

Decline of middle education in the Murshidabad district.

31. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th January says that in accordance with Government's orders requiring that religious education should be imparted to Muhammadan students in all Government schools, a class has for some months been opened in the English Department of the Calcutta Madrassa, and a book named *Nural Momenin*, intended to teach the boys their religious rites and observances, is used as a text-book in the class. The *Moslem Chronicle* newspaper, however, has been writing against the book since it was introduced, though from what motive is not known. The following vindication of the book was sent to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* for publication, but was published in that paper only in a meagre form:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR, Jan. 11th, 1896.

Religious education in the Calcutta Madrassa.

"*A Note on Religious Education in the Madrassa* (*being a reply to the Moslem Chronicle*) *by Maulvi Etai Elahi, B.A.*—Some nine months ago, at the suggestion of some of the well-wishers of the Muhammadan community, a theological class, with the sanction of the Bengal Government, was opened in the Madrasa, and a book called, *Nural Momenin* compiled by Maulvi Nural Alim, a teacher of the Calcutta Madrassa, was introduced as a text-book. The *Moslem Chronicle* raised a strong objection against its introduction, on the ground of its containing chapters dealing with menses and lochia. Then followed a note from Khan Bahadur Maulvi Delawar Hossain Ahmed, supporting the *Moslem Chronicle's* views, and it was published by that paper on the 3rd of October last. The chief points of the Maulvi's arguments are: (1) that he has no faith in the system of imparting religious education in schools; the proper place for such instructions being the home. (2) That he has gone through the book *Nural Momenin*, and it is the deliberate opinion of his friends, as well as of himself, that it is a book which ought not to be placed in the hands of young men. The *Moslem Chronicle* again, in its issue of the 14th December last, alludes to the letter sent in by Maulvi Abdul Karim, Assistant Inspector of Schools, protesting against the introduction of the book in question. We are not told on what grounds Maulvi Abdul Karim bases his protest, but we are simply informed by the *Moslem Chronicle* that he has drawn the attention of the Principal of the Madrasa to the filthy and indecent passages in that book. These passages, however, I subsequently learnt, are none but those which appear in the chapters on menses and lochia. The objections of the three, however, are of the same nature, and let us now examine them one by one.

"First, it has been stated that *Nural Momenin* contains filthy and indecent passages, *i.e.*, it contains chapters on menses and lochia. It is in religion that the Mussalman lives, moves and has his being. It is religion that guides the minutest details of his everyday life. It is therefore that we see the Koran and the traditions dealing with such trite subjects as menses and lochia. I succintly give below the points which are dealt with in the chapters on menses and lochia. In the chapter on menses:—(1) Its definition, (2) its duration, (3) its differentia, (4) the religious practices and observances which a Mussalman should abstain from. In the chapter on lochia:—(1) its definition, (2) the maximum and minimum limits of the puerperal period, and (3) the religious practices and observances which a Mussalman should abstain from. Now I ask the readers to judge for themselves, what in heaven, can there be obscene in these subjects? If the teaching of these subjects be abolished on the ground of their supposed immoral tendency, then the sciences of physiology, along with dissection, and midwifery, ought to be abolished from the curriculum of medical schools. In the dissection classes of these schools, naked human

bodies (both male and female) are dissected before young students of both sexes. Neither can the dissection and demonstration of these bodies, nor the teaching of such subjects as menses and lochia by the teachers, excite the lower passions of the students. The same subject gives rise to different feelings according to the different light in which it is observed, and also according to the attitude of the observer's mind. When a man listlessly looks at a rose, it affects only his Æsthetic feelings; if he is a Botanist he will look at it in the light of a scientist; and if he is a holy person, the same rose will inspire in his mind the feelings of reverence and devotion to God. So while a medical student is dissecting naked bodies before his teacher, or while a student of religion is taking his lessons, in the subjects of the nature of menses and lochia, from his reverend preceptor, the low passions cannot rise in his mind.

"The subjects of menses and lochia are treated in God's own book, the Koran. The prophet did not consider these as obscene and indecent; or else he would not have spoken on these subjects, as we find them in the Traditions; the Imams, the great leaders of Islam, who for piety, honesty, purity, self-sacrifice and self abnegation, have been unparalleled in the world, did not scruple to append elaborate notes and comments on these subjects; and now in these degenerate days, after a lapse of more than 1,000 years, a set of ultra-puritan and sentimental brethren have sprung up to raise a cry of indecency, obscenity, and impurity.

"It may be argued 'These subjects are specially important to the females, what then is the good of teaching them to the boys?' Our girls are generally uneducated, and the fathers feel some delicacy in teaching them these subjects, although to the credit of the girls it must be admitted that they generally pick up a tolerable acquaintance with these subjects verbally, from their young female relatives and mothers. Still it generally falls to the lot of the husbands to give their wives a complete and exact education in these subjects; therefore it becomes necessary for the 'young men' to acquire this knowledge before they enter a married life. What then should be the age when the instruction in these subjects should begin? I am of opinion that it is a sheer waste of time and energy to try to explain these subjects to very little children, so, boys above 12 years, whose powers of imagination and conception are developed, should be taught in these subjects.

"Secondly, we are told by Maulvi Delawar Hossein that he has no faith in system of imparting religious education in schools; and that the boys should learn these things at home. The question here is not of faith, but of fact, and Maulvi Delawar Hossein ought to have shown where the system has failed or has not worked well. He may not have faith in it, but others have, for they see that English is taught in schools, and the boys learn English; Mathematics is taught in schools and they learn Mathematics; History is taught in schools and they learn History; Geography is taught in schools, and they learn Geography, and from these they conclude that, if religious education be given in schools, they must learn about religion. Besides this, they find that the Christian Missionaries in their schools teach religious books, and the Christian boys come out with a fair religious education. What then is the reason that would deter persons from hoping that religious education, if introduced into Moslem schools, will have no effect? Our Maulvi Sahab lays much stress on home-training, and says that the home is the proper place for religious education. Home training—a very fine phrase indeed! It is true that if the mother and sisters in a home are properly educated, which is the birthright of every European child, the home has undoubtably a great influence in moulding the character of the children, and giving a moral and religious training to them. But where is that home? It is an Utopia; it is only in the minds of those who make a fuss of it. It has no objective reality. There are very few Muhammadan families in Bengal where the females have received a proper education. But supposing that every Muhammadan household in Bengal is properly educated, where is the opportunity for the Muhammadan boys to remain at their homes and derive benefits from them? Nearly 90 per cent. of our boys attending the schools in towns come from the mufassil. They spend the greater portion of their time in town, where they receive no home-training, and during holidays, when they go home, their time is divided between merry-making and paying visits to relatives. The fond parents, on the

other hand, receiving their darlings among their midst, after a long time, generally overlook the peccadilloes, but, if some parents, fighting against paternal tenderness, become more strict in forcing their children to learn religious books and to observe religious practices during one month's holidays, the eleven months' ungodly training of the town suffices to make them unlearn those instructions and habits. All the above observations which I have ventured to put forward before the public are borne out by my own experience. I was born in a family, the members of which are reputed for their piety and proficiency in religious knowledge; but as I was, from my boyhood, sent to town for receiving English education, I could hardly learn anything from home. All the little that I have learnt about religion is from my private studies during my leisure hours. During my long residence in the boarding houses at Hooghly and Calcutta, I came in close contact with hundreds of young students, and I have invariably found them possessing a very superficial and meagre knowledge of religion, with crude ideas and unformed habits. So much about the 90 per cent. of mufassil students. Now, leaving aside these 90 per cent., we get only 10 per cent. town students. Of these, again, I believe not more than 2 per cent. will belong to good and respectable families; for it is a generally admitted fact that in the towns of Bengal proper, leaving aside a few exceptions, such as Dacca, Midnapore, &c., there are very few Muhammadan permanent residents who are gentlemen. It must be evident from the facts stated above that only 2 per cent. of the students attending our schools can have the advantage of receiving any training at home. But on this, again, I cannot expect too much; for, as I know, the morality of the big folks of the towns, specially of the big towns like Calcutta, is getting so vitiated every day that my heart aches, and I feel an extreme loathing for the society of the big swells, who call themselves the followers of the great Prophet, when I see or hear of their behaviour in the *nauches* and garden parties. These men are welcomed and cheered by our society, and those who remain true to their religion are ridiculed as 'orthodox,' and are accused on imposing on the Government and the public! *O tempora! O mores!*

"Maulvi Delawar Hossein Ahmed's second assertion, that he has gone through the book in question, and it is the deliberate opinion of his friends, as well as of himself, that it is a book which ought not to be placed in the hands of young men, is, I am forced to observe, supported by no argument or reason. It is nothing but an *ipse dixit*, and therefore does not call for any answer.

"Thirdly, the necessity for introducing religious education into the Madrassa has been called in question, and it has also been stated by some that we have too much of such education. Others again find fault with the Government for sanctioning the introduction of religious education into the Madrassa. I ask those who hold that there is no necessity for giving religious education in our schools, and that we have already too much of it, to observe things more carefully and in their true light. Can they shew 5 among a 100 students attending our schools acquainted even with the fundamental principles of our religion. These students will be nonplussed if you would ask them to repeat the *kulemas* (the fundamental principles) and their meanings. They will look abashed if you would question them as to how they should bathe a dead body and perform the funeral services. This much about their possessing a mere knowledge of religion. But if we turn to the practice of religion, we shall be still more disappointed, for we shall hardly find even one in every 100 students who regularly observes the daily prayers and other *furz* (the orders of God as laid down in the Koran) and *Sonnat* (the orders and practices of the Prophet as found in the Traditions). The present system of school education, without any accompanying religious training, is telling heavily on the Muhammadan Community. It is swelling the number of practical atheists—those that deny God by their actions while confessing him with their lips. Who, in the face of these glaring facts, with his eyes open and intellect not muddled with ignorance and prejudice, would say that we have too much of religion. Yes, perhaps at one time we had too much of a religion, but it was nothing but too much of ignorance, too much of superstition, too much of fanaticism, too much of dogmatism and too much of what I should say *Shirk* and *Bedayet*. The introduction of the printing press, and the publication of cheap editions of the original Arabic books of religion and their Urdu translations, the spread of

Western education and enlightenment, and the discussion of religious questions in the meetings, clubs and conferences of the *Ulemas* have to a great extent removed those superstitions, &c., from the minds of the Muhammadan public; but I believe have not as yet been successful in placing a better one in its stead. The present is a period of transition; the time seems to be propitious for a revolution in religious thoughts and ideas. Every thing seems to be waiting for a controlling and directing power. We are all hankering for a religion pure and rational, one as pure as that of the Musalmans of the early days.

"By sanctioning the opening of a religious class, the Government has not deviated from its policy of religious neutrality. The Madrassa is *ipso facto* a Mahammadan institution attended by Muhammadan boys only, and as such, the Government has not deviated from its policy of religious neutrality in principle. Though the Government has only lent a hall in the Madrassa for the purpose of holding the religious class, yet it ought to be thanked for this generosity and broadmindedness, and I hope the tolerant British Government would show the same toleration to, and sympathy for, the religion of the Prophet as the French Government is showing by raising a subscription for the building of a mosque in Paris.

"I cannot conclude this subject without adding a few words by way of advice to the teachers of the Madrassa, specially to those who are connected with the theological class. They should not look upon their work in a mercenary light, which charge is sometimes laid at their doors, but should do their work out of love and consider it as a duty. They should, above all, bear in mind the old saying that example is better than precept. They should not rest satisfied with merely giving their pupils religious instruction, but should, by their words, actions and example, teach them to lead a higher life; for instance, if they teach that the performance of prayers is obligatory on every Musalman, they should themselves pray and persuade their pupils to pray with them."

DARSAK, Jan. 12th, 1896.

High education in this country—a failure.

32. The friuts of high education, observes the *Darsak* of the 12th January, have proved disappointing to its recipients. High education is no longer found paying. It does not enable its recipients to earn their livelihood. Those who have not received high education may, it is true, feel the regret of not having tasted its sweets, but those who have received it, find it to their cost that they cannot find any profitable work which is suited to their taste and will at the same time bring them the sufficiency to keep their body and soul together. The thoughts and aspirations of an educated man are generally high-flying. He has a very high estimate of his own abilities, and cannot induce himself to follow a trade or calling which is, in his opinion, decidedly low and beneath his dignity. High education is an expensive luxury which the rich can very well afford to indulge in, but which is worse than useless to a poor man, who has many hungry mouths to feed and daughters to marry, and whose mind is constantly distracted with the harrowing thought of earning a livelihood. But the cry for high education is growing louder every day. Colleges and high schools are springing up all around, and the number of the educated "unemployed" is being swelled. Discontent is growing, and a new source of danger to the State is being created. In Europe it is from the idle and discontented educated classes that the Socialists, Nihilists, and Communists are recruited, and the growth of a discontented educated class in this country does not bode well to its peace. It is not advisable to let the evil grow. The Government should grapple with it at once and find out a remedy for its cure. It should find means to give the educated Indians employment. It should give the people a bread-and-butter education; give them, that is to say, a technical training, so that they may learn various callings, and may, in after life, earn a livelihood for themselves.

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA, Jan. 12th, 1896.

Government and scientific and technical education.

33. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 12th January thanks the Government for the grant of one thousand rupees in aid of the scientific researches which are at present being carried on by Professor J. C. Bose of the Presidency College. The time has come when scientific and technical knowledge should spread far and wide in this country; and it is no doubt a matter of congratulation that the attention of Sir Alexander Mackenzie has been drawn to this subject of vital importance. But in order to encourage scientific education, the

Government should not only give the people every facility to receive a scientific training, but provide for them after they have finished their education. Provision should be made for the appointment of qualified natives in the Geological and Telegraph Departments of the Public Service. The lectures on Chemistry delivered at the laboratory of the Calcutta Presidency College should be made open to the public. In short, nothing should be left undone to promote scientific and technical education—to impart to the people, that is to say, a knowledge which will stand them in good stead in future in earning a livelihood. The struggle for existence is becoming keener every day, and the food problem is gradually assuming a serious aspect. And at this juncture the Government should try its best to give the people every facility to obtain remunerative employment.

Touring of inspecting officers in the Education Department.

34. The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, as well as the Lieutenant-Governor, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th January, are surprised to find that certain Deputy and Sub-Deputy Inspectors inspected each of them so many as five hundred schools in one year. This inspection in hot haste is certainly objectionable, but it does not appear strange to one who knows how the late Lieutenant-Governor himself was fond of touring, and encouraged touring in the case of all public officers. It is not, therefore, strange that some of them should overdo touring. Sir Charles Elliott, before his retirement, ordered that travelling allowance should not be granted to those Deputy and Sub-Deputy Inspectors of Schools who would perfunctorily and in hot haste perform their work of inspection. Sir Charles Elliott thus found that touring could be carried too far, and, when overdone, was an evil. But it goes without saying that he himself was responsible for its origin and growth. The fact is that Sir Charles Elliott was a headstrong and hasty ruler. He had his finger in every pie. He interfered in the management of affairs which he did not and could not properly understand. What business had he to interfere in the management of the Education Department? It cannot be said that he understood educational matters better than the Director of Public Instruction, or was in any way superior to him in point of education, experience, or business capacity. Nay, on the other hand, Sir Alfred Croft is in many respects decidedly superior to a man of the stamp of Sir Charles Elliott. The late Lieutenant-Governor ought to have let educational affairs alone, and it is to be earnestly expected that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will follow the example of his master, Sir Ashley Eden, and leave the Education Department entirely to the able management of Sir Alfred Croft. In that case he will not have any cause for complaint against the management of the Education Department.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA, Jan. 14th, 1896.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

The Sadar Local Board in the Murshidabad district.

35. The *Pratikar* of the 10th January says that the present Vice-Chairman of the Sadar Local Board in the Murshidabad district being only a nonentity, the whole work of the Board used to be done by the Chairman, the late Rai Hari Krishna Mazumdar Bahádur. The death of the Chairman has therefore brought the business of the Board to a standstill. The pathsala *gurus* have not been paid their stipends for a long time; and the office clerks and employés fare no better. As this is also the season for inspecting and repairing roads, and as some time will elapse before a new election is held, it is hoped that some arrangement will be made for carrying on the current work of the Board.

PRATIKAR, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality.

36. It is rumoured, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th January, that Mr. Richie will revert to the service of Government, and that the Calcutta Municipality will appoint a higher grade civilian on a larger salary than at present as its Chairman. A correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suggests the appointment of a native gentleman with proper qualifications to the Chairmanship, as a native Chairman can be obtained on a smaller salary than is at present attached to the post. The writer cannot support the correspondent's suggestion. Mr. Ritchie was not probably in the late Lieutenant-Governor's favour, but he is respected by the native community. He is, moreover, not only an able officer but also an upright man. In Municipal meetings he has given proof of his independence; and it was he who kept Mr. Skrine under

SULABH DAINIK, Jan. 11th, 1896.

control. The Commissioners should therefore on no account lose the services of Mr. Ritchie.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Jan. 14th, 1896.

The Burdwan Municipality and house-connections in Burdwan.

37. Local Self-Government, observes the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 14th January, is a misnomer. The representatives of the people are not allowed to have a free hand in the management of the affairs of Municipalities and District Boards. The district authorities always interfere and stand in the way. This is what is making the people lose their confidence in the virtues of Local Self-Government.

This policy of interference on the part of district authorities has been lately illustrated in the Burdwan Municipality in connection with the question of granting house-connections. The Municipal Commissioners resolved to sanction house-connection to one hundred houses. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division opposed their proposal, and cut down the proposed number to fifty, asking the Commissioners at the same time to frame rules imposing certain conditions on owners and occupiers of the houses to which house-connection was to be granted. The Commissioners framed such rules and sent them to the Magistrate to be forwarded to the Commissioner. The Magistrate, however, not only did not forward these rules to the Commissioner, but represented to him that no further house-connection could be sanctioned before the Commissioners had raised the water-tax, constructed another filter, and made arrangements for the supply of filtered water to those places under the Municipality which had not yet got the benefit of filtered water. The Commissioner has accepted the recommendation of the Magistrate, and has refused to sanction further house-connections. The Municipal Commissioners are in a fix. They cannot sanction house-connections without the approval of the Government, nor can they lay their case before the Government, as in that case they will have to forward their case through the proper channel, *i.e.*, through the Magistrate, and the Commissioner who are opposed to their proposal.

CHARU MIHIR, Jan. 14th, 1896.

Water scarcity in the Mymensingh district.

38. The *Charu Mihir* of the 14th January says that every week a large number of complaints is reaching the writer from the mufassal concerning water scarcity. If water scarcity is so keenly felt in winter, it is easy to guess how fearfully the people will suffer from it in the ensuing summer. Want of good drinking water is also causing the Mufassal people to fall victims to various diseases. But in spite of such a deplorable state of things, the District Board of Mymensingh, though ready to lavish money upon less important objects, will not spend enough for the excavation of tanks, one of the main objects of the imposition of the road cess.

CHARU MIHIR.

Causes of the unhealthiness of Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district.

39. A correspondent of the same paper assigns the following causes for the frequent outbreaks of cholera in Jamalpur, in the Mymensingh district:—

(1) Jamalpur possesses too many roads, and it is well-known that roads obstruct the free flow of rain water. Neither can the deep and non-levelled drains along the sides of the roads drain away all the rain water, which, in consequence, accumulates and gets putrid by the decomposition of vegetable matter in it; the water emits a most nauseating smell, and in colour is as black as blue-black ink

(2) There being no burial ground for the Musalman residents, they bury the dead bodies of their relatives in the yards of their dwelling houses. The Municipal mehters, too, bury the dead bodies of patients who die in hospital and in the cholera shed, and also the dead bodies which are picked up on roads, close to the town and in a perfunctory manner. This greatly adds to the unhealthiness of the town.

(3) There being no fixed reservoirs for steeping jute, jute is steeped wherever there is a little collection of water. The efforts of the authorities to check this practice have hitherte borne no result.

(*g*)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

SAHACHAR, Jan. 8th, 1896.

Extortions by railway coolies.

40. The *Sahachar* of the 8th January complains of extortions which are committed upon passengers by railway coolies at Howrah, Sealdah, Rajnagar and other stations on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal State Railways.

41. A correspondent writes in the *Sanjivani* of the 11th January that as the construction of a branch line of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Midnapur is in contemplation, a survey party has already taken the field. Rajapur, a village in Ulubaria, has been made the headquarters of a sub-division of the proposed railway. The amin who is attached to the survey party and whose duty it is to settle the amount of the compensation to be paid to persons for damages done to their property by survey operations is freely taking bribes. He awards very inadequate compensation to those who do not pay him an illegal gratification and unduly large amounts by way of compensation to men who can satisfy his greed by means of bribes. The Sub-divisional Officer of Ulubaria should make an inquiry into his conduct.

Oppression by a railway amin.

SANJIVANI, Jan. 11th, 1896.

42. The *Darsak* of the 12th January complains that no third class female carriage is attached to the local train on the East Indian Railway, which leaves Howrah for Burdwan at 5 P. M. on Saturdays and at 5-23 P. M. on all other days. This proves a great inconvenience to female passengers.

Railway grievances.

DARSAK, Jan. 12th, 1896.

An Assensole correspondent of the same paper complains that the carriages of the passenger train No. 7 on the East Indian Rialway, which reaches the Assensole station at 5-8 P.M., are not at once or speedily unlocked. This causes great inconvenience to the passengers who are thus prevented from refreshing themselves at the station where the train stops for twenty minutes.

(h)—General.

43. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 8th January thanks Government for conferring the title of Khan Bahadur upon Khondkar Fazl-i-Rabbi, Dewan of his Highness the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad. In honouring the Khan Bahadur, Government has honoured a most deserving person.

Maulvi Fazl-i-Rabbi, of Murshidabad, as Khan Bahadur.

MURSHIDABAD HITAISHI, Jan. 8th, 1896.

44. The *Vikrampur* of the 9th January says that incapacity or indolence on the part of the authorities has made both superior and inferior officers in every department of the administration unmindful of their duty. If this state of things is allowed to continue, not only will Government's good name be in danger, but it will in no long time bring itself into serious trouble. It is high time that arbitrary conduct on the part at least of the inferior officers was checked.

Neglect of duty by the officials.

VIKRAMPUR, Jan. 9th, 1896.

45. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 9th January has the following:—

The proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam.

SULABH DAINIK, Jan. 9th, 1896.

The ground on which the proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam is most probably based is that the pressure of work in the Bengal Secretariat has grown very heavy, and it has become urgently necessary to give relief to that office by slicing off a portion of the country nnder the jurisdiction of the Bengal Government, and thereby taking off a portion of its burden from its back. But the question is, is the ground on which the proposed amalgamation is based at all tenable? The Chittagong Division has all along been a part and parcel of Bengal; but so long the plea of pressure of work was not raised. If the former Secretaries did not object to bear the heavy burden of work, why should the present Secretaries do so? Is the pressure of work really so very great as to necessitate the dismemberment of Bengal? If the Chittagong Division is to be separated from Bengal on the score of pressure of work, a province may have to be cut off from India on the same ground; and a country from the British Empire. If the Home Government does not complain of pressure of work, if the Government of India can manage its affairs without a word of complaint, why should the Bengal Government alone fret and murmur and complain of heavy pressure of work? It is idle to complain that the existing Secretariat establishment is not able to satisfactorily dispose of the work in hand. The pressure of work, if it is at all heavy, falls upon the subordinates who never grumble or murmur. The Secretaries, who do complain, have only to supervise. Their work is comparatively light, and they have, so to speak, a happy time of it. There is, moreover, a minute division of work in the Bengal Secretariat under which not only the existing amount of work, but much more than the existing amount,

can, in our opinion, be satisfactorily transacted. The plea of pressure of work therefore does not stand to reason. And if Bengal is at all to be dismembered, the existing Secretariat establishment should be reduced.

There is, however, another ground on which the proposed amalgamation may be based. Assam is a non-regulation Province, the system of permanent settlement is not in force there, nor are many of the laws which are in force in Bengal applicable to Assam. By amalgamating a portion of Bengal with Assam, you bring it under the jurisdiction of a non-regulation Province, you make it amenable to laws and regulations in force there. In other words, you make Chittagong a non-regulation Division. By so doing you can, whenever you like, raise the land revenue of Chittagong, and it is not unreasouable to think that the Government has the increase of land revenue in view in making the proposal of amalgamating the Chittagong Division with Assam. We all know how only a short time ago an attempt was made to increase the land revenue of Assam by fifty *per cent.*; who can say that the Chittagong Division, when amalgamated with Assam, will not have to share the same fate? There is reason for our being led to entertain this suspicion. If pressure of work had been the true reason of making the proposal of amalgamation, no attempt would have been made to add to the burden of work of the Assam Government. Let the Government lay its hand on its heart and say that the increase of land revenue is not in its view in making the proposal of amalgamation.

It is true that the Government is becoming more and more financially embarrassed. But who is responsible for this? Not surely the people who cannot be held responsible for the reckless expenditure of the Government. But if the impecuniosity of the Government be really so very great that it must have money somehow or other, let it follow a more straightforward policy, and the people will like it better. Let it not for fairness's sake deprive the people of the Chittagong Division of the rights and privileges which they have so long enjoyed.

HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

The New Year's day honours.

46. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th January is extremely glad that Babu Jadunath Roy, the late Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, has been made a Rai Bahadur. The writer is, however, very sorry that Mr. R. D. Mehta, who is one of the leading citizens of Calcutta, a patriot and a man honoured by all, has not been honoured by Government with any distinction. Will Government never forget the fact that the first thing that Mr. Mehta did after his appointment as Sheriff was to speak at the Town Hall meeting against the Jury Notification? The writer is glad that Babu Rashbehari Ghosh has been made a C. I. E. He deserved a higher title.

HITAVADI.

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division.

47. The same paper says that one among the many objections to the transfer of the Chittagong Division to the jurisdiction of Assam is that in that case Assamese will be made in time the court language of that Division, just as Hindi has now been made the Court language of Sambalpur, instead of Uriya. Such a change of court language will be attended with serious mischief and confusion.

SARASWAT PATRA, Jan. 11th, 1896.

The new Lieutenant-Governor.

48. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 11th January addresses the following to the new Lieutenant-Governor :—

Like importunate children, the Bengalis, who are a loyal people, are constantly demanding something or other from the Government. Every intelligent person, however, knows that neither is it in the power of Government to grant every such demand, nor are the Bengalis deserving of having every one of their demands granted. But it will not be unjust for the Bengalis to demand from their sovereign, whom they regard as justice incarnate, such rights and privileges as even the most barbarous subjects may in the name of justice demand from their sovereign. What Bengalis want is that a curb should be placed upon the arbitrary conduct of *zubberdust* officials who lose their head in the intoxication of power; that the all-powerful executive should pay proper respect to the judiciary; that the Government should treat with strict impartiality the different classes of its subjects; and last of all that the subject-people should be allowed to live a peaceful life in the enjoyment of the bare necessaries of existence. This, and ony this, will satisfy the Bengalis, and any body who secures this much to them is sure to be

looked upon as their *ma bap*, and as the very incarnation of justice. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's late speech has assured the Bengalis that they will have their expectations fullfilled under him. They, therefore, welcome him to his new office with a hopeful heart.

SANJIVANI, Jan. 11th, 1896.

The proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam.

49. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th January deprecates the proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam, on the ground that it will, if carried out, deprive the people of Chittagong of many valued rights and privileges which they have so long been enjoying. Assam is a non-regulation province, while Chittagong is a part and parcel of an advanced and enlightened province like Bengal. Assam has no Legislative Council, the administration of justice there is not so perfect as in Bengal, and education has not made such rapid progress in Assam, as in the advanced sister province. Under these circumstances it will be downright injustice to the Chittagong people to bring them under the jurisdiction of the Assam Government. If, however, the Government is determined to amalgamate the Chittagong Division with Assam, it should bring the latter province under the jurisdiction of a Lieutenant-Governor, should keep it no longer a non-regulation province, and give it all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the people who live under the jurisdiction of a Lieutenant-Governor.

SANJIVANI.

The high-mindedness of the new Lieutenant-Governor.

50. The same paper cites a few instances to show the high-mindedness of the new Lieutenant-Governor and his love of justice. A civilian, whose name the writer does not disclose, did an act of grave injustice. The late Lieutenant-Governor did not, however, take him to task for it. Sir Alexander Mackenzie was at that time the Home Member in the Viceroy's Council. With his characteristic love of justice, he could not bear this, and in his official capacity, he at once wrote to Sir Charles Elliott, calling on him to punish the peccant official. Sir Charles procrastinated, and Sir Alexander served him with a strong reminder. And it was only through the intervention of the Viceroy that the Home Member desisted from pressing his point any further.

Here is another instance in point. The late Lieutenant-Governor appointed Europeans to a few posts of two hundered rupees and less a month, without previously taking the permission of the Supreme Government. The Home Member did not like this, and he at once wrote to Sir Charles Elliott, pointing out that his conduct in this respect was in direct contravention of a standing order of the Secretary of State, and asking him never to violate that order again.

From these and many other instances it is quite clear that the new Lieutenant-Governor is a sincere friend and well-wisher of the people of Bengal, and he will not, it is expected, allow any injustice to be done to them.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR, Jan. 11th, 1896.

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

51. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th January says that the people of the Chittagong Division have been alarmed at the proposal to transfer that Division to Assam. Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur, has submitted a memorial to Government, on behalf of the Tippera Hitasadhini Sabha, requesting the authorities to consider the objections of the people of that Division before passing final orders on the subject. Will Government listen to the Maulvi Saheb's request? The same gentleman put a question in the Bengal Council last year asking for information as to the real intentions of Government in regard to this matter, but was not fortunate enough to receive a satisfactory reply. It is clear that in its actions Government is guided more by commercial instincts than by considerations calculated to increase the comfort and happiness of the subject people. Bengal is the richest and most advanced province of Her Majesty's Indian dominions, and it is the duty of the authorities to make it also the best governed province. The writer would therefore suggest the conversion of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal into a Governorship, and the amalgamation of Assam with the Lower Provinces. If this proposal cannot be carried out, let things remain as they are. The transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam will be a source of great inconvenience to the people of that Division, and it is hoped that proper deference will be paid to their opinion in the matter.

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA, Jan. 12th, 1896.

The New Year's day honours.

52. Commenting on the New Year's day honours' list, the *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 12th January observes that it is a standing complaint against the Government that it does not confer honours on the most deserving persons. The claims of Babu Nritya Gopal Mallik and Kumar Dinendra Narayan Rai to some title of distinction seem to have been studiously ignored. Both of them are well educated and are Honorary Magistrates of Calcutta. Kumar Dinendra Narayan is also a Municipal Commissioner. Both of them belong to aristocratic families, and are noted for their open-handed charity.

Almost all the high titles have been conferred on officials. Lord Wenlock, who was already a G. C. I. E., has been made a G. C. S. I. Lord Werlock is not, however, a popular ruler. It is difficult to understand what has entitled Sir Henry Brackenbury to the title of K.C.S.I. Titles have thus been heaped upon European officials. Of non-official Europeans the Honourable Mr. Playfair best deserves the honour conferred on him.

There are few natives who have been happy recipients of New Year's day honours. This is perhaps due to Sir Charles Elliott. The honour to Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh comes very late. Raja Gobinda Lal Rai Bahadur and Raja Sasisekhareswar Rai richly deserve the honour conferred on them. Babu Ramakshay Chattopadyaya and Babu Jadunath Rai ought to have been made Rai Bahadurs long ago. Strangely enough, Babu Sarat Chandra Das, C.I.E., has been made to climb down. He has been made a Rai Bahadur. If he had been a European, a higher honour would certainly have been conferred on him. Khandkhar Fuzl-i-Rubbi deserves the honour conferred on him.

DACCA PRAKASH, Jan. 12th, 1896.

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

53. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th January says that the proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam has filled the people of that Division with alarm. It is true that as regards the rulers personally, there is little difference between the ruler of one province and that of another; still Assam is, at best, only a non-regulation province, where the executive orders of the officials have the force of law, and where they have greater opportunities of committing oppression upon the people than are possessed by officials in a regulation province. But the Chittagong people's principal objection to the proposed transfer seems to proceed from their extreme unwillingness to be called Assamese. Their fear that the transfer will result in the substitution of Assamese for Bengali as the court language of the Chittagong Division, and of the periodical settlement of land revenue for the permanent settlement, is, however, completely unfounded. Sylhet has been for years under the Assam Administration, but neither her old court language has been substituted by Assamese, nor has the permanent settlement of her land revenue been changed or interfered with. Nay, since the transfer of the district to Assam, Bengali has become the chief court language in that province.

In one respect the Chittagong Division may expect to fare better under the Assam Administration than she has done under the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. In Cachar, where there is a population of 367,542 souls only, the Local Board spent Rs. 1,60,435 in one year on roads and other works of public utility. Thus the Cachar Local Board spent more for a population of three-hundred and fifty thousand souls than the more advanced Dacca District Board in Bengal spent for a population eight times as large. In Sylhet, again, the five Local Boards spent Rs. 4,04,125 in one year for a population of 2,154,593; and of this Rs. 68,856 was spent on education alone. Thus, if transferred to Assam, the Chittagong Division may expect to enjoy the fruits of a more developed local self-government system than Bengal has yet attained to. But, in spite of all this, it would be unjust to make the Division a part of the less advanced province of Assam. It is unjust to brand with the name of Assamese and subject to a non-regulation administration a population of 4,190,081 souls resident in the Chittagong Division, and of 2,522,135 souls resident in Sylhet and Cachar solely for the benefit of 2,528,455 people residing in Assam proper. The language difficulty would be best solved and administrative convenience would be best served by annexing Burma to Assam and transferring the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions to the North-Western Provinces, and the Sylhet, Cachar, Dhubri and Gauhati districts to Bengal.

54. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 13th January says that instead of transferring the Chittagong Division to Assam, Assam should be amalgamated with the Lower Provinces, and the whole province thus constituted should be placed under a Governor. This would be by far the best course to follow. But if it does not meet with the Government's approval, and if the authorities are resolved upon making the transfer which is under their consideration, then the newly constituted province of Assam should be converted into a regulation province and placed under a Lieutenant-Governor, with a separate University and a separate High Court for itself.

DACCA GAZETTE, Jan. 13th, 1896.

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

55. The *Sahachar* of the 8th January says that the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill, if passed, will practically be a dead letter. There are brokers in every business. In fact there are many businesses which cannot be conducted without the aid of brokers. The writer fails to understand why Sir Alexander Miller has made a distinction between legal brokers or law touts and brokers in other businesses. Sir Alexander's chief objection to the employment of legal brokers is that such brokers might injure their clients by taking them not to the most competent legal practitioner, but to the practitioner from whom they might expect the largest gratification in the shape of commission on the pleader's fee. This is undoubtedly an evil which ought to be guarded against. But it is equally certain that it is an evil which cannot be guarded against by any legislative measures. The only way to check the evil to any appreciable extent would be to make it legal for law touts to take commission and to grant licenses to law touts.

SAHACHAR, Jan. 8th, 1896.

The Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.

If, however, the law is to be amended on the line proposed, criminal punishment for touting should be abolished, and an offending law tout should be punished not judicially, but departmentally by the High Court.

56. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 9th January thus comments on the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA, Jan. 9th, 1896.

The Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.

The Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill is objectionable on various grounds. It is, in the first place, one-sided. It is intended to be applied only in the case of pleaders and mukhtars, but is not applicable to barristers as if all barristers are immaculate, and are not open to the charge of encouraging legal touting. The fact is that the law is going to be made inapplicable to barristers simply because they are Englishmen.

In the next place, the proposed amendment is calculated to defeat its own object. The ostensible object of the Bill is to put down legal touting, but it will practically prove a source of great inconvenience and hardship to the legal practitioners and their clients. It will not put down touting; it will harass legal practitioners. The Law Member himself confesses that there are legal touts and legal touts. It is not the object of the Bill to prohibit a legal broker from recommending a client to a proper and efficient legal adviser and accepting from him a remuneration for his services. The Bill is principally directed against the legal touts who procure clients for legal practitioners on the payment of a commission by the latter. It is true that the evil cannot be successfully put down so long as the legal profession does not attain a higher standard of morality, but still it is the duty of the legislature to assist, so far as it lies in its power, in checking the growth of the evil complained of. It is thus quite clear that the Bill will not be able to reach the legal touts, while it will not fail to oppress and harass the legal practitioners.

There is another serious objection to the Bill under notice. It proposes to subject a legal practitioner to suspension or dismissal by the District Judge, if the latter is satisfied that the charge against him of paying commission to a legal tout has been proved. Under the existing law, a legal practitioner against whom such a charge is proved, is even liable to imprisonment which may extend up to six months, and if the Bill is passed, the District Judge will have the power to pass this sentence on a peccant legal practitioner. Under the existing

law, the power of punishing an offending legal practitioner lies exclusively in the hands of the High Court. The Bill proposes to extend this power to the District Judge, subject to an appeal to that Court. In answer to this objection, the Law Member has only to observe that the proposal of entrusting the District Judge with this power comes from the High Court, which may be taken "as fairly representative of the interests both of the Bar and the public in this country, and it may be assumed that a proposal which comes backed with the authority of the Judges of the High Court is not one which is insiduously intended to take away the liberty of the legal practitioner." The reply of the Law Member is not quite satisfactory. If the proposal is objectionable in itself, the authority of the High Court Judges does not take away from its objectionable character. The apologetic tone assumed by the Law Member in replying to the objections brought forward against the Bill does not become a man of his position. It does not certainly become a British barrister.

The Hon'ble Babu Mohiny Mohun Roy in his speech pressed the above objections home against the Bill under notice. He also pointed out that section 36 of the existing Act was extremely objectionable, as it made professional misconduct of legal practitioners and touting highly penal offences, differing in no respect from criminal offences. Babu Mohiny Mohun Roy's opinion is entitled to respectful consideration, as there is no one who has a more extensive knowledge of our law courts than he. Even Sir Alexander Miller has to confess that section 36 of the existing Act is one to which he personally should never have been a party, but he found it law, passed years before he had anything to do with it, and did not, therefore, feel it necessary to interfere with it. The Law Member also admits that the Bill is not free from defects, but those defects, he assures us, will be set right in the Select Committee. The best thing to do will, however, be to throw out the Bill instead of tinkering it into some shape in the Select Committee.

It is a mystery to us why the Government should persist in getting the Bill passed, if, as the Law Member himself observes, the particular evil which the Bill is aimed against cannot be destroyed by legislation or in any other way than by the education of the legal profession in India up to a higher standard of professional morality than it appears yet to have attained. If this is so, why then persist in getting the objectionable Bill passed? The conduct of the Government lends colour to the suspicion in the public mind that the object of the Bill is not so much to put down the evil of legal touting as to put down the liberty of legal practitioners, who, for their independent spirit and love of liberty, have become an eyesore to the European officials, who, in their turn, are growing more and more fond of exercising their power and ruling the people with a high hand. This suspicion should be speedily dispelled from the public mind.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Jan. 14th, 1896.

The Jury Bill.

57. The Government, observes the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 14th January, is on the horns of a dilemma. It cannot pass the Jury Bill in the teeth of public opposition. It cannot withdraw the Bill, as that may affect its prestige. Mr. Monmohun Ghosh has pointed out a way out of the difficulty. His solution of the problem is this:—In a case where the Judge and the Jury differ in their opinion, the Judge may pass his judgment after recording the points of his difference from the jury and his reasons for the same, thus giving either of the parties in a case the opportunity to appeal to the High Court against the decision arrived at. The Government should adopt the amendment suggested by Mr. Ghosh, or any other which is likely to make the Bill acceptable to the public.

DAINIK-O-SAMVCHAR CHANDRIKA, Jan. 15th, 1896.

Sir Griffith Evans as the future Law Member.

58. The *Pioneer*, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th January, says that the appointment of Sir Griffith Evans as the Law Member of the Viceroy's Council, after the retirement of Sir Alexander Miller, will be most acceptable to the public. The public acts of Sir Griffith Evans, which have been extolled by the *Pioneer*, are, however, precisely those in the performance of which he sacrificed his principles and his independence in obedience to the dictates of self-interest or to pressure from the Government. The *Pioneer's* special pleading is doing more harm than good to Sir Griffith Evans.

IV.—Native States.

59. The *Sahachar* of the 8th January says that, now that the people of Cashmere are showing every sign of attachment to their ruler, it is time that Lord Cross's promise to completely make over the management of the State to Maharaja Pratap Singh should be redeemed. The Maharaja has given proofs of his ability to effect improvements in the administration of his State. At any rate, a restoration should be made under the condition that if the Maharaja cannot effect administrative improvements within a period to be specified, he will be again divested of his powers by the British Government. None will blame Government if, after giving such a trial to the Maharaja, it again finds it necessary to deprive him of his powers. The Resident of Cashmere is just now staying in Calcutta, and it is hoped that, after consultation with him, Lord Elgin will see fit to restore the Maharaja to his former position.

Cashmere.

Sahachar, Jan. 8th, 1896

60. The *Sanjivani's* own correspondent writes as follows in that paper of the 11th January:—

Affairs in certain Native States in Rajputana.

Affairs in three Native States in Rajputana, namely, Bhurtpur, Kerowli, and Dholepur, are in a very bad condition. The Raja of Kerowli is surrounded by sycophants and priests, who exercise very great influence over him. The Raja is in fact a pliant tool in their hands and is always ready to carry out their wishes. The Maharaja of Bhurtpur is dead, and his able minister, Durgadas Bhatta, has also left the world. The young Maharaja is a headstrong, indolent youth, who has no will of his own, and is absolutely guided by his friends and relatives. Misgovernment, however, has reached its climax in Dholepur. The Maharaja of Dholepur is an indolent young man, rolling in luxury and passing his days in frivolities. He never pays any attention to the administration of his State, and passes most of his time in hill sanitariums. His extravagance has beggared his State and depleted his treasury, and the Government has been compelled to order the Resident to take the management of the State finances into his own hands. The Government has also recently ordered that the Maharaja of Dholepur should not be allowed to pass his time in hill sanitariums, except on medical advice. The Maharaja of Dholepur is, physically and mentally, in a very pitiable condition.

Sanjivani, Jan. 11th, 1896

The Raja Saheb of Jhallawar, another Native State in Rajputana, is a spirited young man, who seems to understand his rights very well. Recently he had some disagreement with the Resident who ventured to upset some decisions passed by the Raja Saheb in some appeal cases The Raja Saheb at once protested against the Resident thus interfering in the internal administration of Jhallawar, and wrote to him as follows:—"I am not aware whether you are competent to hear appeals against my decisions in any way, and to write for staying such orders as have been already issued by me. I do not see there is any such condition in the Jhallawar Treaty, or in the Viceroy's *Kharita*, dated June 1894. If you have been, however, authorized to that effect, I shall be obliged if you would kindly send a copy of such orders to me before the Christmas holidays."

The jail administration in these Native States in Rajputana does not compare favourably with what is in force in British India. The prisoners in these Native States are generally very ill fed. The scale of food granted to prisoners in these States is half the scale granted to prisoners in British India. There is, again, another serious drawback in the jail administration in these Native States. When the term of imprisonment of a prisoner expires, he is not at once released. If, for instance, the term of a prisoner expires in the morning, he is not set free before the evening. The courts generally open very late, and no prisoner can be released before he is brought up before a Magistrate. During the whole time for which the prisoner is neither in jail nor is set free, he has virtually to starve. He is no longer entitled to the jail diet, nor is he supplied with any food by the Court officers. He being still a prisoner, no one else is allowed to bring him food. Some time ago a Brahman prisoner had to observe the usual *Ecadasi* fast the day previous to that on which his term of imprisonment came to an end. On that day, too, he had to go without food, and when late in the evening he was released, he had died from starvation. In the jails in the Native States all prisoners are kept in chains as long as they remain confined. This is not the case in the jails in British India.

SANJIVANI. Jan. 11th, 1896.

61. The same papers writes as follows :—

Administration of justice in Native States.

Administration of justice is very badly conducted in the Native States. It is not too much to say that anarchy prevails in most of them. Excepting Travancore, no Native State has a penal code. The will of the ruler and his ministers is law there, and there is no established procedure for the trial of prisoners. In British India an accused person, even when convicted, can appeal against the decision of the lower court, and his confinement in jail does not stand in the way of his making such appeal. He is also entitled to a copy of the judgment of the lower court free of cost, and if he be a pauper the cost of making the appeal is borne by the Government. The case is, however, otherwise in the Native States. There a prisoner has hardly any opportunity of making an appeal. His compliant never reaches the higher authorities, and if he ever succeed in making himself heard through the intervention of some influential friend or relation, his case is heard by the *sardars* of the appellate courts at their latest convenience. In British India an accused person cannot be confined in the *hajut* for more than fifteen days at a time, but in the Native States there is a host of accused persons who are rotting in the *hajut* for more than five years without undergoing a trial. In appointing Judges in the Native States no regard is had to their qualifications. They have absolutely no legal training. There is, moreover, no fixed time for holding courts, and there is no established precedure regarding trial of cases and the jurisdiction of the different courts. Everything is in confusion, everything is anomalous. Most of the present rulers of the Native States are either minors or are totally unfit to govern. The States are governed by their ministers, who alone should be held responsible for those anomalies.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

GAYA PUNCH, Jan 6th, 1896.

62. The *Gaya Punch* of the 6th January says that His Honour the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is a very kind, noble,

The new Lieutenant-Governor.

courageous and experienced ruler and very popular. His Honour held several high posts in Bengal, and is fully acquainted with the customs of the Province. Recently he was a Member of the Supreme Council. His Honour, who prepared the Pilgrim Ships Bill, made necessary amendments in it in consultation with Sir Jahan Kader Mirza Wahed Ali, K.C.I., for which act he obtained thanks from the leading Muhammadans.

In his speech at the Civil Service Dinner, Sir Alexander Mackenzie spoke very highly of his predecessor. He seems to be anxious to maintain peace and harmony between the different sections of the population. He is reported to have said that he would not recognize any possibility of friction between the judicial and executive branches of the administration, that he would see that posts in the public service were given to Hindus and Muhammadans alike, and that each party was allowed to freely practise its religious rites. If this is true, we believe our present Lieutenant-Governor will be loved by every body.

HITAVADI, Jan. 10th, 1896.

63. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th January publishes the following contradiction by Mr. Oldham of certain charges which it published against him on the authority of the *Sansodhini* newspaper:—

Mr. Oldham's contradiction of certain charges against him.

"I see you have taken them from the Chittagong *Sansodhini*. I had noticed them in that paper, but as its praise and blame of me are equally erroneous and undiscriminating, and I did not regard its Editor as a responsible person and its circulation is limited to Chittagong, where I am well known, they did not appear to require notice. The case is entirely different with your paper.

"The punkha-puller is a child of 12 who gets Rs. 4 a month for pulling my punkha at intervals of 2 or 3 hours daily. He is a good b oy and favourite servant, but like boys of his age has some troublesome tricks.

"One of them is a dirty habit of wetting himself and his clothes and the clothes and bedding of his follows in the same lodging, which has often been complained of by his fellow-servants. One day, last November, he received two strokes of the cane, suitable to his age and size, inflicted on the proper place, for playing with my punkha after repeated warnings to desist and threats

of punishment. On seeing that he was to be caned he wet himself before he was touched.

"Babu Harish Chandra Datta has recently established a large school just under my house. He heard that the noise troubled me, and without any suggestion or action of mine wrote for an interview to discuss how my cause of complaint might be removed. I said that if the boys were kept quiet before and after school time, as they were during school hours, I would be quite satisfied; and to further this I would arrange for their having the use of a suitable playground close by. Babu Harish Chandra Datta, with whom my relations have been perfectly friendly throughout, undertook to do this, and for over two months now has fulfilled his undertaking to my complete satisfaction, though on one occasion I had to remind him of his promise. It appeared that he ou it was unavoidably absent and had omitted to leave the necessary instructions. It is to be mentioned that his school was designedly placed under my house in order to have a share of my influence and authority in keeping discipline."

The Editor is sorry that the *Sansodhini* should have represented a simple correction of a servant in a very different light and should have represented Mr. Oldham as an enemy of an institution of which, it appears, he is a patron. The Editor is glad that Mr. Oldham has sent this contradiction and thereby enabled him to correct his mistake.

64. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th January has the following in an article on the last sitting of the Indian National Congress :— SANJIVANI, Jan. 11th, 1896.

The last Congress and its lessons.

The first lesson that is taught by the last sitting of the India National Congress is that we can reanimate even the dead and inert masses of the Indian people by means of a steady, continuous political agitation. What the Poona people could do in two months can certainly be far better done in a year.

Another lesson that we are taught is this. There is nothing better calculated to draw the masses to the Congress than to hold industrial exhibitions in connection with the Congress meetings. At the last sitting of the Congress an industrial exhibition was held, which drew crowds of people. It served two purposes. It served the purpose of an industrial exhibition, and it also served to draw the attention of the lower classes to the Congress proceedings. The Poona people have shown the best way to impart political education to the masses of the Indian people.

There is another lesson which the Congress leaders should lay to their heart. At present too many subjects are discussed at a Congress meeting, and, under these circumstances, full justice cannot be done to any of them. What we advise the Congress leaders to do is that they should take up the most pressing questions one by one, and thresh one of them threadbare before they take up another. The most important question of the time is the separation of the judicial and the executive branches of the administration. The Congress should devote its attention entirely to the discussion of this question. Agitation should be kept going on concerning this question from year's end to year's end. Meetings should be held throughout the country, memorials should be drafted and signed; statistics should be collected about miscarriage of justice resulting from the investment of both judicial and executive powers in one and the same hand; and there should be no rest till the prayer of the people is granted. It is in this way alone that the Congress programme can be made to bear any fruit.

65. The same paper writes as follows:— SANJIVANI,

Bengalis in parts of India other than Bengal.

The Government of the North-Western Provinces seems to be very ill disposed towards the Bengali residents of that part of the country. That Government is never without some excuse or other for not promoting a Bengali in its service or increasing his pay. The Bengalis out of home live scattered over the different parts of India and not as a united people. They have no Association or Society to defend their interests or link them together by a common bond of sympathy. When any of them falls into danger he becomes helpless, there is none to protect him. The children of these Bengalis are forgetting even their mother tongue. There are no schools to teach them Bengali. They learn and speak Urdu or Hindi. Mournful is the condition of the Bengali abroad.

DAINIK BHARAT MITRA, Jan. 12th, 1896.

Lord Elgin on the happiness of the Indian people.

66. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 12th January says that in the course of one of his speeches at Madras, the Viceroy said that the welcome reception which he met with from the natives of this country was enough to show that Indians are happy under the British Government. His Excellency should, however, bear in mind that it is official pressure which makes those who take a special delight in flattering the high officials accord them a welcome reception, and that such receptions are therefore no proof of the happiness of the Indian people under British rule.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Dec. 4th, 1895.

Employment of Uriyas in railway and settlement work in Orissa.

67. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 4th December views with jealousy the appointment of a large number of foreigners to the posts that are at the disposal of the Railway and Settlement authorities working in Orissa, and observes that a certain percentage of the situations should have been given to the natives of Orissa.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

The cultivation and sale of ganja in the Tributary States of Orissa.

68. The same paper fails to appreciate the wisdom of the measure whereby the Tributary Chiefs of Orissa have been compelled to abolish the cultivation of indigenous *ganja* in their States, and to purchase the Rajshahi *ganja* from the British Government for sale to the consumers in those States.

SAMVADVAHIKA, Dec. 5th, 1895.

Charges against a steamer employé.

69. A correspondent, by name Judhisthir Das of Rukunadaipur, in the Balasore district, brings charges of assault and misdemeanour against the Munshi of the steamer *St. Nely*, that plies between Nalkuli and Cuttack, in the columns of the *Samvad Vahika* of the 5th December, and prays the authorities to take serious notice of his conduct towards the passengers that happen to travel by that steamer.

UTKAL DIPIKA, Dec. 7th, 1895.

Sir Charles Elliott's Financial Resolution.

70. Referring to the resolution of Sir Charles Elliott on the finances of Bengal, published in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, wherein His Honour observed that he left the finances of Bengal in a flourishing state, the *Utkal Dipika* of the 7th December remarks that this observation would have carried some weight had not additional taxes been imposed by His Honour on the people of that province.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Dec. 11th, 1895.

Sir Charles Elliott and the native press of Bengal.

71. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 11th December does not at all approve of the attitude of the Native Papers of Bengal towards Sir Charles Elliott, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and regrets that adverse criticisms, made by some of those papers, have exceeded the bounds of decency and fair judgment.

UTKALDIPIKA, Dec. 14th, 1895.

Mr. Madhusudan Das as a candidate for a membership of the Bengal Council.

72. The *Utkal Dipika* of the 14th December and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 18th December recommend Mr. Madhusudan Das of the Cuttack Bar to the notice of the municipalities of Orissa that have lately earned the privilege of electing a member for a vacant set in the Bengal Legislative Council, and observe that he is best fitted by his education and profession to discharge the duties of an elective member in that Council.

UTKAL DIPIKA, Dec. 14th, 1895.

Wild elephants in killa Darpan in Cuttack.

73. The *Utkal Pipika* of the 14th December grieves to learn that wild elephants are committing irreparable mischief to the tenantry of killa Darpan in the Cuttack district, by consuming and wasting their paddy and by roaming about unmolested in all parts of the killa to the dismay and terror of the disarmed and suffering population.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

Counterfeit coins in use in Cuttack.

74. The same paper has reason to believe that a large number of counterfeit coins are in currency in the Cuttack district.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

Levy of unauthorised ferry tolls in the Cuttack district.

75. The same paper has information that the management of the ferry ghats in the Cuttack district by the Cuttack District Board has proved a source of oppression to many passengers, and that *ijaradars* charge unauthorised rates by showing incorrect tables. That must be put down at once. The writer

narrates how the Manager of killa Darpan was made to pay unauthorised rates to the *ijaradar* of the Jagannathpur ghat of the Gengati river near Jaypur on his way to Mahanga from Chatia in the Cuttack district.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Dec. 23rd, 1895.

The Puri Lodging-house Act.

76. A writer in the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 23rd December points out that the definition of the word "lodger" in Bengal Act No. IV of 1871, generally known as the "Puri Lodging-house Act" should be made clearer, so as to include those proprietors of houses, situated either in the Puri town or in the *chatties* of the Grand Trunk Road, who receive annual rents from tenants, occupying them for purposes of business in the locality. He argues that if these proprietors be made to pay lodging-house rate, inspection and dâk bungalows and other public constructions situated along the Grand Trunk Road may as well be required to pay the same rate. The writer has further reason to complain of the way in which the Act is administered by the Magistrates; for people entertaining their friends or relatives, or charitable individuals giving shelter to the poor or the helpless, are sometimes prosecuted as men receiving lodgers without a license.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
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